

Claims

[c1]

1.A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:
a memory device for storing a deployment time of a deployment event; and
a controller electrically coupled to said memory device, said controller
determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment time.

[c2]

2.A module as in claim 1 wherein said controller stores in said memory device a
deployment time comprising at least one of: start time, duration, and end time.

[c3]

1.

[c4]

3.A module as in claim 1 wherein said controller stores in said memory device a
fault time corresponding to said deployment time.

[c5]

1.

[c6]

4.A module as in claim 3 further comprising a comparator electrically coupled
to said controller, said comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault
time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment
time.

[c7]

1.

[c8]

5.A module as in claim 4 further comprising an indicator electrically coupled to
said controller and indicating when a deployment time corresponds with a fault
time.

[c9]

1.

[c10]

6.A module as in claim 5 wherein said indicator comprises at least one of: a
pulsating indicator, a light bulb, an LED, a fluorescent light, an audible signal, a
visual signal, a 7-segment display, an analog gage, a digital meter, a video
system, and a hazard light.

[c11]

1.

[c12]

7.A module as in claim 1 further comprising an indicator electrically coupled to
said controller, said indicator continuously indicating that the RCM has been on

a vehicle that has been involved in a collision, until such time when the RCM is serviced or replaced.

[c13] 1.

[c14] 8.A module as in claim 1 further comprising an indicator electrically coupled to said controller, said indicator permanently indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.

[c15] 1.

[c16] 9.A module as in claim 1 wherein said controller stores in said memory device a restraint power draw value during said deployment event.

[c17] 1.

[c18] 10.A module as in claim 1 wherein information stored in said memory device is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable.

[c19] 1.

[c20] 11.A module as in claim 1 wherein the controller stores RCM operating time in said stored device.

[c21] 1.

[c22] 12.A restraints control module (RCM) for a vehicle comprising:
an indicator;
a memory device for storing a deployment start time of a deployment event;
a controller electrically coupled to said indicator and said memory device, said controller determining when to deploy a restraint and storing said deployment start time and duration in said memory device;
said controller storing a fault time in said memory device and signaling said indicator when said fault time corresponds to said deployment start time and duration.

[c23] 13.A module as in claim 11 wherein said indicator continuously indicating that the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.

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- [c24] 1.
- [c25] 14.A module as in claim 11 further comprising a comparator electrically coupled to said controller, said comparator comparing said deployment time with a fault time and determining whether said fault time corresponds with said deployment time.
- [c26] 1.
- [c27] 15.A module as in claim 11 wherein information stored in said memory device is uneraseable, unresettable, and unoverwritable.
- [c28] 1.
- [c29] 16.A method of time stamping and indicating a deployment event within an automotive vehicle having a RCM, said method comprising:
sensing a collision;
generating a collision signal in response to said collision;
deploying a restraint in response to said collision signal; and
storing a deployment time.
- [c30] 17.A method as in claim 15 wherein storing a deployment time comprises storing a deployment time comprising at least one of: start time, duration, and end time.
- [c31] 1.
- [c32] 18.A method as in claim 15 further comprising indicating whether the RCM has been on a vehicle that has been involved in a collision.
- [c33] 1.
- [c34] 19.A method as in claim 15 further comprising storing a fault time.
- [c35] 1.
- [c36] 20.A method as in claim 19 further comprising indicating when said deployment time corresponds with said fault time.

[c37]

1.

[c38]

21.A method as in claim 19 further comprising indicating cause of said fault time.

[c39]

1.

[c40]

22.A method as in claim 15 further comprising storing restraint power draw during the deployment event.

[c41]

23.A method as in claim 15 further comprising continuously indicating a fault in response to the deployment event.

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